

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DLOS-04

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 (ISO) W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2951

INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 10939

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, EFIS, ENRG, UK, NO, SV

SUBJECT: RETROSPECTIVE ON NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S
VISIT

REF: LONDON 10724 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: ASSISTANT DEPUTY HEAD OF WESTERN EUROPEAN
DEPARTMENT AT FCO BRIEFED EMBASSY OFFICER JULY 16 ON VIS-
IT BY NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER LAST MONTH. VISIT,
WHICH HAD BEEN LONG DESIRED BY UK, WAS FIRST FOREIGN SEC-
RETARY HAD RECEIVED AFTER UK REFERENDUM ON COMMON MARKET
AND WAS ESPECIALLY APPRECIATED BY NORWEGIANS AS INDICA-
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TION OF "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH UK. FOREIGN MINISTER

FRYDENLUND OUTLINED NORWEGIANS' CONCERN OVER GROWING SOVIET INTEREST IN NORWAY, AND FISHERIES QUESTIONS EARLIER DISCUSSED BY NORWEGIAN EMISSARY EVENSEN WERE ONLY MENTIONED. UK ALSO TOLD NORWEGIANS OF THEIR AGREEMENT TO FURTHER AND FINAL DEMARCATION OF NORTH SEA BOUNDARIES. END SUMMARY.

2. DEPUTY HEAD WEST EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT AT FCO (DAVID BEATTIE) GAVE EMBASSY OFFICER JULY 15 RECAPITULATION OF THE VISIT TO LONDON JUNE 17-18 OF NORWEGIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY FRYDENLUND. BEATTIE SAID THAT FCO HAD LONG DESIRED VISIT OF THIS TYPE TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN UK AND NORWAY, BUT NOTED IT HAD BEEN IMPOSSIBLE "FOR MONTHS" TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT TO THE VISIT FROM FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN, WHO WAS SO INTENSIVELY ENGAGED IN UK REFERENDUM ISSUES. WITH RELATIVELY SHORT NOTICE, FRYDENLUND AGREED TO SHORT VISIT IN MID-JUNE, WHICH INCLUDED DINNER IN HIS HONOR HOSTED BY NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR JUNE 17, TALKS AND LUNCH WITH CALLAGHAN, FOLLOWED BY EXTENSION OF CONVERSATION IN AFTERNOON OF JUNE 18.

3. THERE HAD BEEN, BEATTIE SAID, NO FIXED AGENDA FOR THE TALKS WHICH WERE INFORMAL IN NATURE. IT WAS APPARENT, HOWEVER, THAT FRYDENLUND WAS MUCH CONCERNED BY WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS A GROWING SOVIET THREAT IN NORWAY. IN THIS REGARD, FRYDENLUND NOTED BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE FALL ON DEMARCATION OF NATIONAL BOUNDARIES IN THE AREA OF THE BARENTS SEA, SOME BORDER DIFFICULTIES ON THE CONTINENT ITSELF, CONCERN ABOUT THE GROWING SIZE OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN OSLO, AND PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT, CONCERN ABOUT THE SIZE AND ACTIVITY OF THE SOVIET COMMUNITY IN SPITSBERGEN.

4. FRYDENLUND TOLD CALLAGHAN THERE ARE NOW SOME 2,000 SOVIETS RESIDING IN THE SPITSBERGEN AREA, ALMOST ALL OF WHOM ARE INVOLVED IN MINING OPERATIONS UNDER THE 1921 AGREEMENT WHICH GIVES THE SOVIET UNION (ALONG WITH THE UK AND THE US) RIGHTS OF EXPLOITATION OF THE SPITSBERGEN OR SVALBARD AREA. THE SOVIET COMMUNITY IN SPITSBERGEN NOW IS PRESSING THE NORWEGIANS FOR WHAT IT CALLS "ADMINI-

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STRATIVE REFORMS." BEATTIE SAID THAT THESE REFORMS APPEAR TO INFRINGE ON NORWAY'S SOVEREIGNTY AS REAFFIRMED IN THE 1921 AGREEMENT, AND FRYDENLUND HAD CHARACTERIZED THE SITUATION IN SPITSBERGEN AS "POTENTIALLY DIFFICULT."

5. ON THE BARENTS SEA QUESTION, BEATTIE SAID ONE OF THE PRIMARY DIFFICULTIES IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTINENTAL SHELF RIGHTS SINCE THE AREA IS BELIEVED AND HOPED TO BE A

WEALTHY ONE IN TERMS OF MINERAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING OIL. IT IS, OF COURSE, OF SOME PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE SOVIETS BECAUSE OF THEIR SEA LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITH THEIR GROWING ATLANTIC FLEET. FRYDENLUND EXPECTED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE "DIFFICULT."

6. THERE WAS LITTLE DIRECT COMMENT DURING THE CONSULTATIONS ON FISHERIES, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THE RECENCY OF THE EVENSEN VISIT. AS A RESULT OF THE EARLIER VISIT, THE UK BELIEVED NORWAY WOULD HOLD OFF ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A 200-MILE ZONE LIMIT, ATTEMPTING TO SECURE UNDERSTANDING FOR ITS SPECIAL POSITION IN BILATERAL TALKS WITH OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES BEFORE UNILATERALLY IMPOSING SUCH A LIMIT.

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TATION. EVENSEN HAD ALERTED UK OFFICIALS THAT THE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT MIGHT HAVE TO PASS ENABLING LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD PROBABLY BE MISINTERPRETED BY THE PRESS INTERNATIONALLY AS A UNILATERAL DECLARATION. THE ENABLING LEGISLATION WAS INTENDED, HOWEVER, TO CRANK UP THE MACHINERY SO THAT AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME NORWAY (SPECIFICALLY THE KING) COULD PROCEED WITH A DECLARATION IF REQUIRED IN THE ABSENCE OF AN OVERALL INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT TO BE REACHED IN THE LAW OF THE SEAS CONTEXT.

7. FROM THE UK POINT OF VIEW, BEATTIE SAID THE VISIT WAS
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USEFUL IN OFFERING CALLAGHAN AN OPPORTUNITY TO REASSURE THE NORWEGIANS THAT THE RESULTS OF THE UK REFERENDUM WOULD NOT MEAN A CHANGE IN THE "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS. CALLAGHAN ALSO ANNOUNCED THE UK'S READINESS TO CONTINUE WITH BORDER DELINEATION IN THE NORTH SEA AREA BEYOND THAT AGREED IN BILATERAL TALKS BEGINNING IN 1961. THE UK AT THIS POINT IS WILLING TO MEET IN ORDER TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE LINE NORTH OF THE PRESENT OIL FIELD ACTIVITIES TO THE SO-CALLED TRI-POINT AMONG NORWAY, THE UK AND THE FAEROE ISLANDS.

8. THE TWO FOREIGN SECRETARIES ALSO BEGAN DISCUSSIONS ON JOINT EFFORTS AIMED AT PROTECTING UK AND NORWEGIAN NORTH SEA INSTALLATIONS. CALLAGHAN HAD POINTED OUT THAT THE UK WAS ESTABLISHING A FLEET OF 5 NAVY VESSELS TO PROVIDE PATROL SERVICE TO THE UK RIGS. HE SUGGESTED THAT NORWAY MIGHT WISH TO PROVIDE A SIMILAR COMMITMENT WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF SHARING PATROL SERVICES, NOTING THAT THE PROXIMITY OF UK AND NORWEGIAN RIGS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR PATROL ACTIVITY TO BE CARRIED OUT JOINTLY. THE NORWEGIANS, BEATTIE SAID, APPEARED TO WELCOME THIS PROPOSAL AND INDICATED THEIR AGREEMENT TO FUTURE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS.

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